

Dear Commissioners:

Don't prevent states from fixing my cell phone problems. I am writing to oppose CG Docket No. 04-208 and WT Docket No. 05-194, which will unjustly take away the authority of states to tackle problems with cell phone service, including abusive cancellation penalties. Worse, the proposal will put in place a weak set of cell phone company-endorsed rules that offer no improvements in service or enforcement.

It's time to adopt policies that force cell phone companies to improve the level of service they provide to consumers. It's about time that someone protected the little guy for a change. I remember when the Government deregulated "land line" telephones and forced AT&T to break up. While it is true that there are many cell phone service providers, it is also true that they have become the telecommunications equivalent to OPEC. It is "We the People" who write the laws, not "We the huge business conglomerates." It has been proven time and time again that whenever we let some industry or other police itself, they establish a "Good ol' boys (and Gals) system. The FCC can NOT allow the cell phone industry to regulate itself. That would be the same as picking the pockets of all of us who depend on our cell phones. (In my case, to keep in constant communication at all times with my elderly widowed Mother.) Please, don't allow the cell phone companies write their own rules.

Although CG Docket No. 04-208 purports to address consumer frustration with confusing cell phone bills, hidden fees and misleading advertising, the proposal does little for consumers. In the name of helping us, the agency is proposing to block states from passing their own pro-consumer laws. As bad, WT Docket No. 05-194 would bar state courts from enforcing state law when it comes to unfair and abusive cell phone contracts. That's going too far.

States are responding to consumer complaints. Don't stop them! And don't give in to adopting weak, industry-drafted rules in their place. The FCC should stand up to the cell phone industry, and respect states rights and strong consumer protections.

Sincerely,
Robert E. Simoneau